FAI Special Aerobatic Events (FSAE) for 2020

Each year efforts are made to investigate and where possible move forward into a practical planning phase with what we loosely term ‘FAI Special Aerobatic Events’ (FSAE), which comprise almost anything that doesn’t fit into the standard CIVA multi-programme formats that are closely regulated by our Part-1 and Part-2 power and glider Sporting Codes.

In general these events aim to establish aerobatic contests that are open to a limited range of selected power and/or glider pilots and thus fall within FAI’s Category-2 system, their emphasis being primarily on the media and sponsorship aspects so that we can show some aerobatic competition flying to the public in interesting formats that may be structured outside CIVA’s normally strict Aresti-based regimes, and of course they must return a fee to supplement our ability to cover the commission’s annual costs. The glider aerobatic programmes currently being planned as part of the World Air Games in Turkey during 2022 may well provide an example of these formats, though in this case the potential for sponsorship and funds collection is likely to be somewhat curtailed.

FSAE’s in the past have included the spectacular FAI World Grand Prix of Aerobatics series run by Jean Louis Monnet in the 90’s and early 2000’s, the more recent Sky GP’s in South Africa under John Gaillard’s hand, and a number of other loosely connected events devised by LG Arvidsson. The Formation Aerobatic Challenge in China a few years ago should also have been one of these, but at a late stage this was unfortunately reduced to ‘display’ status by the local authorities.

I can tell you that there are strong efforts currently in progress to create a new FSAE in 2020, probably in Europe. Details however must remain confidential for the time being, until a firm basis for them has been established.

Nick Buckenham